

Date: 14th May 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE

**UNITY WITH DIVERSITY: BRADFORD
CATHEDRAL JOINS ITS FAITH TRAIL PARTNERS
AT CITY HALL CELEBRATION EVENT**



Canon Mandy Coutts and Bradford Cathedral's Director of Education and Visitors Maggie Myers accepted an award at Bradford City Hall on behalf of the Cathedral as members of places of worship across Bradford gathered together to celebrate how they all work together in their local community.

The certificate, which marks the work that St. Peter's Church; the Abu Bakr Masjid; Bradford Cathedral; Bradford Lakshmi Narayan Hindu Temple; and Guru Gobind Singh Gurdwara do together as part of the monthly faith trail, is now proudly on display in the cathedral.

|

HOSPITALITY. FAITHFULNESS. WHOLENESS.

Canon Mandy:

“The awards were about recognising relationships and friendships that are already in place and those that were aspirational friendships. Some people who got awards were just beginning their journey: how they can get to know other faiths close to their vicinity. Some were about groups praying together, and looking for those commonalities.

“For us at the cathedral, it was all about the Faith Trail, which has been taking place for ten years. The relationships that exist between the different part of the trail enable people to get a feel of what it’s like to have all these different faiths within a very short geographical distance - it’s less than a mile long, along the same road – and what it’s like to live beside each other to share really good things, with a strong sense of friendship. It’s all about what connects us rather than what divides us, and how that’s a hope for the city of Bradford going forward, and how we can find new ways to have friendships that bridge divides that are present in many other places in the country.”

Maggie Myers:

“It was a real pleasure to go to City Hall and to have the opportunity to mix with people of different faiths, who represent the Bradford and Keighley communities. There was a real drive to build even stronger links between faiths [as well as] celebrating the links that exist. It was also lovely to see West Yorkshire Police represented at the event, as the police really support the Faith Trail in Bradford.”

The event also included a one-minute silence for the victims of the Easter Sunday attacks in Sri Lanka, alongside other conflicts and incidents of persecution across the globe.

“Again people coming together to pray and remember religious persecution in the world is a very important thing to do.”

Canon Mandy:

“It’s all about unity with diversity, in peace time, so when there is a challenge, or conflict, whether that’s locally, nationally or internationally, those bonds of friendship are already in place. There were stories told of faiths visiting other faiths at the time of tragedy to say that ‘we are here for you’. It’s all about bringing peace as a result of those friendships.”

The Bradford Faith trail returns on Saturday 1st June, starting at St. Peter’s Catholic Church on Leeds Road and visits all the venues listed earlier, and includes a talk by faith leaders at each building, as well as a free vegetarian lunch. Following the April Faith Trail those who took part were asked about what they took away from the day:

“It’s a tremendous offering to Bradford to have this trail; to appreciate all the cultures and religions here.”

“We very much enjoyed being part of the event. It was good to be able to visit different worship centres and we were warmly welcomed. We especially enjoyed the lunch at the Gurdwara as well as learning more about faiths we really know little about in a relaxed way.”

“You see what the buildings are like inside; you see the way they are used; you get to know the people; and hopefully make some new friends!”

To find out more about the Bradford Faith trail please visit <https://www.bradfordcathedral.org/visit/faith-trail/> and to sign up e-mail Maggie on education@bradfordcathedral.org.

ENDS

Notes for Editors

About the Faith Trail

Bradford Cathedral are committed to deepening understanding and mutual respect between people of differing faiths with the aim of helping build resilient communities of hope within Bradford. The Bradford Faith Trail runs between March and October each year.

About Bradford Cathedral

Bradford Cathedral has been a place of worship in Bradford since the first millennium. It is the oldest building in the city and, alongside being a place of worship, hosts events, arts projects and much more. Bradford Cathedral celebrates its centenary in 2019.

For further information please contact:

Philip Lickley
Communications, Marketing and Events Officer
t: 01274 777720
e: commsandevents@bradfordcathedral.org